

Message Text

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62

ACTION AGR-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 /028 W

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R 111525Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6014

UNCLAS CAIRO 10802

DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BEXP, EAGR, US, EG

SUBJ: FOOD IMPORTERS IN EGYPT: USDA TORS PROGRAM

REF: STATE 179535

1. EMBASSY'S RESPONSE TO REFTEL HAS BEEN DELAYED AS RESULT
GOE DECISION TO REINSTITUTE LICENSING PROCEDURES FOR ALL "OWN
CURRENCY" IMPORTS (CAIRO 10541). PRIVATE SECTOR IMPORTERS
OF FOOD STUFFS, WHO NUMBER IN THE HUNDREDS SINCE 1974 REMOVAL
OF IMPORT LICENSES REQUIREMENTS FOR QUANTITIES VALUED AT LESS THAN
LE5000, MAY NOW FACE SEVERE CURTAILMENT OF THEIR
ACTIVITIES, WHICH WOULD ALSO MARKEDLY REDUCE DIFFUCULTIES
AND COSTS OF PRODUCING A TRADE OPPORTUNITY REFERRAL SYSTEM
(TORS) FOR USDA/FAS.

2. NEW REGULATIONS GO INTO EFFECT SEPTEMBER 1, AND WE HAVE THUS
FAR BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN A READING OF GUIDELINES THAT WILL BE
UTILIZED IN DETERMINING WHO WILL BE ALLOWED TO IMPORT
WHAT, FOR HOW MUCH AND FROM WHERE. IF PUBLIC SETOR
COMPANIES INVOLVED IN FOOD IMPORTS, OF WHICH THERE ARE
ONLY SEVEN, ARE THE ONLY ONES THAT WILL FIT FAS
CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION IN TORS, I.E. IMPORTS OF OVER
\$100 THOUSAND, THE LIST WILL BE QUITE SHORT AND EASILY MANAGED.
SHOULD SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANIES STILL
QUALIFY FOR LISTING, THEN CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME AND MONEY
WILL BE REQUIRED TO PREPARE LISTING.

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3. EMBASSY SUGGEST THEREFORE THAT ADDITIONAL TIME BE ALLOWED

IN ORDER TO DETERMINE STATUS OF FOOD IMPORTERS. NEWLY
ARRIVED AGRATTACHE WILL UNDERTAKE EFFORT TO PREPARE
RECOMMENDATION FOR AGRICULTURE AS SOON AS SITUATION HAS
RESOLVED ITSELF.
EILTS

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